

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Employee Newsletter

KONNECTION

Summer 2007



Restore 64

Summer 2007

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Secretary's Message:

Where has the time gone? Schools are going back into session and summer break is wrapping up for most of our kids. As we get back from summer vacations and start to focus on the work ahead for the rest of this year, I just wanted to give you a snapshot of where the Cabinet stands.

In the first six months of this year, we have awarded more than \$750 million in highway investment contracts. That's more in six months than the Cabinet used to do in a year. We will easily surpass last year's record \$1 billion investment, for projects are desperately needed. We are focusing on safe roads and highways that drive economic opportunities.

As we move "full speed" ahead, we are doing so today with about 1,000 fewer employees than we had three years ago. We are able to maintain and even improve our services because we are working smarter. AASHTO now ranks the Cabinet number one nationally in project development. The Reason Foundation, an independent national group, has our Cabinet rated as one of the most efficient in the country. Dedicated employees provide the fuel that is propelling the Cabinet to these new heights.

The Department of Aviation is another area where we are seeing improvements "take off." Millions are being invested across the state to improve our aviation infrastructure. Many airports are undergoing safety improvements, being re-painted, getting new terminals and hanger buildings. This effort was even featured in a news article recently in "Aviation Week." Aviation is a vital part of the Governor's plan to build strong communities across the state. Many business and industry leaders will not even consider locations that do not have accommodations for aircraft.

Our Department of Transportation Safety is now firmly entrenched focusing on highway safety. We are also putting a renewed emphasis on customer service. Pretty soon, you will see a dramatic increase in our Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) Patrol service. The SAFE Patrol will expand to 36 positions throughout our twelve highway districts. We will have SAFE Patrol vehicles on the road on nights and weekends, in an effort to help motorists and help law enforcement clear crash sites in a timelier manner.

Our highway safety efforts are having a positive impact. Since the Governor championed the passage of primary seat belt, graduated driver license and quick clearance laws last year, our fatality rate has dipped to a five year low. Additionally, the year-to-date rate so far in 2007 is below the rate in 2006. In fact, Kentucky has been identified as one of only four "best performance" states from the national group "Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety."

We are aggressively moving forward with the Safe Routes to School program too. Funding has been awarded to more than 30 communities across the state. The program will fund things like sidewalk extensions and lighting improvements which are designed to encourage more kids to walk and bike to school. It's a healthy way for kids to get exercise and our environment to get a break from all the school traffic. As evidenced by the Governor's Get Healthy initiative, Kentuckians are becoming more active. So the Cabinet has implemented a full time bike/pedestrian coordinator.

These are just a few of the things we have to be proud of. There are positive stories and good things going on in every part of this Cabinet. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, but I thought it was a good time to say "thank you" for your service!

These are just a few of the things we have accomplished together. There are positive stories and good things going on in every part of this Cabinet. I thank you for your service.



Brie Nighlert

Restore 64

I-64 closed for safety improvements

Critical repairs are being made to Interstate 64 through downtown Louisville. The “Restore 64” project is scheduled for completion in early August. Crews have worked around the clock to repair the 40-year-old interstate as quickly and painlessly as possible.

The wear and tear of approximately 100,000 cars and trucks a day has taken its toll on I-64. Crews are working to replace 132 deteriorating bridge joints, lay 21 lane miles of new asphalt riding surface, and install new overhead signs and guardrail.

As the approach to this mammoth \$53 million project was devised, two factors were key: safety and timely completion. In order to make the necessary repairs, crews needed to have access to the driving surface. The work zone had to be as safe as possible for both workers and motorists, and the project needed to be completed as quickly as possible, with as little inconvenience as possible. By fully closing I-64 the Cabinet is operating under optimum safety conditions and the work can be completed at an accelerated rate.



If Restore 64 had moved forward as a “traditional” construction project, Louisville motorists would have been confronted with periodic interstate shut-downs and single lane closures for the rest of this year—at least. Furthermore, motorists and workers would be in far more danger because of the large volume of traffic that would have been moving through the active work zone. Last year in this country, more than 1,050 people were killed and another 44,000 injured in highway crashes within work zones. A staggering 85 percent of those killed and injured were not workers—but drivers and passengers of motor vehicles.

While the rewards far outweigh the frustrations that Louisville motorists might experience this summer, the complete closure of I-64 does create significant obstacles. We have strived to fully address interstate access questions, traffic detours and the impact those detours will have on city streets and local communities. We have also worked diligently to ensure emergency response and other public services are not adversely impacted. We have held public meetings to inform residents. Restore 64 has been the topic of Metro Government meetings and of meetings with business, community and civic leaders. We have talked to hundreds of businesses, event organizers and local residents about how the impact of Restore 64 is being minimized. And we continue to hold weekly updates with local leaders, business owners, the contractor, subcontractors, and consultants.

The largest repair project of its kind, Restore 64 will provide a unique alternative to future highway projects across Kentucky and may set the pace for construction safety and efficiency. Kudos to the many KYTC employees, engineers, consultants, contractors, local businesses, agencies and residents who have partnered to make the project a success! □



Remember to buckle up, and in work zones slow down and be aware. For more information on highway safety visit our website at: <http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/>

Kentucky Makes New Airports a Priority

By Jim Ott/Airports

With an eye toward industrial development and the coming of very light jets (VLJ), the state of Kentucky is in the midst of new airport development.

Since last year, the state's Aviation Dept. has cooperated in the construction and completion of four airports and is involved in site selection at five other locations in the state.

Williamsburg-Whitley County Airport and Marion-Crittenden County Airport opened in 2006, each equipped with 5,500-foot-long runways. At Morehead-Rowan County Airport, a 4,400-foot strip is being completed, and a 4,000-foot pavement is under construction at Hawesville in Hancock County.

Site selection committees are reviewing locations for airports in Oldham, Letcher, Spencer and Gallatin counties, and near the city of Middlesboro.

The activity has placed Kentucky in the top ranks of the southeast region of FAA for new airport development, says Paul Steely, aviation commissioner. Steely, a private pilot, became familiar with airport development when he worked on a successful project in Whitley County. He was named aviation commissioner by Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R), who was elected in 2004.

During his tenure, Fletcher, a former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, has emphasized aviation. The former division of aeronautics was raised to department level under the Transportation Cabinet, ranking it with the Highway Dept. It is preparing to move to new quarters at Capital City Airport in Frankfort.

As a result of the upgrade, the Aviation Dept. has hired its own engineering staff that specializes in aeronautics and offers its services to any entity seeking support for an aviation project. In addition, the Aviation Dept. has initiated a program with the state's Education Dept. that instructs teachers in aviation principles. Two institutes inaugurated the program last year for 50 teachers. Four institutes have conducted or will stage the program in 2007.

Moreover, the department's budget was increased from \$6 million in 2006 to \$10 million for 2007 and is no longer tied to aviation fuel taxes.

Kentucky has 61 hard-surface airports and three large airports: the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, a hub for Delta and Comair; Louisville International Airport, where UPS operates its main airline hub; and Lexington's Blue Grass Field. Economic development has been an important goal for the Fletcher administration, and airports are keys to success, Steely says. Where airports exist in the state, economic growth is strong.

The fresh emphasis on aviation, combined with economic development, has engendered a new attitude toward runways as extensions of pavement for highways, the director adds. The push for new airports is related to the state's expectations that VLJs will bring down costs of operating aircraft, and airports will be even more necessary than usual in attracting new business.



Permission has been granted from "Aviation Week" to reprint this article. It can also be found at <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/>.

Second Annual “Share The Road” Rally in Frankfort

Bicyclists and runners from all across the Bluegrass converged on the Old State Capitol in downtown Frankfort on the last Saturday in June for Kentucky’s second annual “Share the Road” Rally.

The purpose of the Rally, which was co-sponsored by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and “Get Healthy Kentucky”, was to promote highway safety, with a special emphasis on cyclists and pedestrians. Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians are all equally responsible for observing the rules of the road and being aware of the presence of each other on our streets and highways.

Last year 133 collisions were reported in Kentucky involving motorists and bicyclists, resulting in 2 fatalities and 92 injuries. Meanwhile, 540 collisions were reported last year involving motorists and pedestrians, producing 33 fatalities and 527 injuries.

The Rally also focused attention on the “Get Healthy Kentucky” campaign, which has been championed by Governor Ernie Fletcher and First Lady Glenna Fletcher. There are no better ways to pursue a healthier lifestyle than by bicycling, walking or running on a regular basis.

Among those to address the Rally were Joe Bowen of Powell County, who completed two epic 14,000 mile bicycle trips across America, once in 1967, and again, almost 40 years later, in 2006. Joe was the recipient of the first “Kentucky Unbridled Spirit Award”, presented by Governor Fletcher in March, 2005.

Joe was joined on stage by Alison Smith of Lexington. In 2005 Alison led the effort to have Kentucky’s “Share the Road” license plate created. There are now almost 5100 “Share the Road” license plates in Kentucky. Keith Lovan, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, also spoke to the gathering, urging support for the Rail-to Trails Program in Kentucky.

A full schedule of events for the day included a 50 mile “Share the Road” bicycle ride through Franklin and Woodford Counties and a 5K Fun Run/Walk. A “Family Fun Ride” through downtown Frankfort, bike safety demonstrations, and helmet fitting sessions were also included.

Among the cyclists on the 50 mile ride was Jim Hilke of Paris, Kentucky, who at age 77, is an active member of the Bluegrass Cycling Club. Jim regularly takes part in century rides, so for him, 50 miles was a “piece of cake”.

At least one bicyclist, who passed on the opportunity to participate in the 50 mile “Share the Road” ride, was Grant County’s Alan Bell. Alan rode his bicycle from Williamstown to Frankfort (a distance of approximately 60 miles). He saved his energy for the ride home.

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher issued a proclamation making June 30, 2007 “Share the Road” Day in Kentucky. □



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Launches Newly Designed Website

Online site more user friendly and easy to navigate

The next time you log-on to the Internet, check out the new look of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Web site at <http://www.transportation.ky.gov>. The site, with a more up-to-date design and an improved structure, was just launched.

“Our new Web site is much more user friendly,” said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. “The site is easy to navigate and has an attractive modern look. We want our Web site to reflect the forward thinking and innovative approaches we engage in as we build a stronger transportation network across the state.”

The new Web site contains information on more than 100 Cabinet programs. Detailed information on the Safe Routes to School program, Transportation Enhancement program and a host of other community related projects is all available online. Kentucky’s six year road plan, along with active construction project maps from every county, are also available at the Web site. Local contact information for KYTC county facilities and highway district information is easy to find and presented in a consistent manner. Information about highway safety activities and KYTC news is also just a click away.

Many new features have been added to the site. Among them are a shift to a program/project-centric structure, a Cabinet News scroller, a Transportation-specific search engine, a project ticker highlighting KYTC programs and projects within the Cabinet.

“These new features enhance the public service that our Web site provides,” added Jennifer Weeks, Executive Director of the Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology. “This is a Web site that was developed by a number of our very talented staff members and it’s a site in which the Cabinet can be extremely proud.”

John Sykes, Team Lead of the Web Support Services section in the Office of Information Technology, headed up the Web site re-design team. Several employees, including Jim Webb, Jay Clifton, Matt Snow and Bret Blair provided their expertise to this project.

“We are determined to offer the best online services to our customers in Kentucky,” concluded Secretary Nighbert. □



See for yourself: <http://www.transportation.ky.gov>
and look at past issues of the Konnection by clicking on:
Newsroom/Communications

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Unveils New Logo

Modern logo to appear on stationery and other print items

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is moving forward with a new, fresh, modern Cabinet logo. The new logo uses inviting greens and blues and is patterned after an interstate highway sign.

The crisp lines and color variations within the new logo give the appearance of a road through one of Kentucky's pristine landscapes.

"The new Cabinet logo was designed by some of our creative staff members in the KYTC Office of Information Technology," said Deputy Secretary Crystal Ducker. "They did a wonderful job and are to be commended for all the hard work and long hours they put in this project."

Beginning immediately, the modern logo will be used on all letterhead and all other print and promotional materials for the KYTC.

An electronic version of the new look is attached. It should be used in all electronic correspondence regarding official Cabinet business. The electronic versions attached in this e-mail include the general logo and two examples of how the logo will be customized for use in individual departments, divisions, and offices. KYTC's Division of Graphic Design and Printing should be contacted in order to utilize the new logo

This new logo should replace the previous "K" logo design.

The new logo is also leading to a new family of KYTC signs that will soon start going up across the Commonwealth.

Adopt-a-Highway, Scenic Byways, Drive Smart, and other KYTC signs will soon be incorporating the Cabinet's new, fresh, and modern logo. □



Come Visit Us on Main Street

Check out our booth on Main Street in Louisville, at the Kentucky State Fair, August 16-26. The KYTC booth is the right place to be if you want to:

- ♦ Know where Kentucky's bicycling routes are located
- ♦ Receive a state highway map
- ♦ Learn About improving health, safety, and the environment through improving the routes to and from schools
- ♦ Fly an airplane simulator
- ♦ Receive a calendar featuring student artwork
- ♦ Learn about safe driving for you and your kids
- ♦ See our new SAFE patrol vehicle



New Campaign Asks “Kentucky What’s Holding You Back?”

Campaign directs public attention to the benefits of using safety belts

A new seatbelt awareness campaign launched today by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet asks “Kentucky, What’s Holding You Back?” During a kickoff event in Frankfort, emotional, real life testimonies drove home the safety belt message.

“I know I would be dead had I not been wearing my seatbelt,” said Cornelius Gibson as he recounted his crash.

Nurse Medic Bryant Shumate said, “I see people die everyday on our highways that could have been prevented had they only been wearing their seatbelts.”

Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert said the decision to wear your seatbelt could determine whether you live or die in a serious crash. “The Cabinet’s top priority is highway safety. We encourage loved ones, friends and neighbors to buckle up. The few seconds it takes to snap your seatbelt can save your life,” said Secretary Nighbert.

According to the National Safety Council, your chance of dying in an automobile crash is one in 84 over your lifetime. For children and teenagers, highway fatalities are the leading cause of death in Kentucky.

With escalating traffic fatalities and two out of every three people not restrained, Governor Ernie Fletcher led an effort to pass the primary seatbelt law. Only six months after the bill had been signed into law, Kentucky saw its first reduction in fatalities and a significant downward trend resulting in a 5-year low of fatalities.

Department of Transportation Safety Commissioner Tim Hazlette said the mission of the Department is to reduce fatalities and injuries on Kentucky’s roadways. “This campaign will assist us in our education and outreach efforts, driving home the importance of buckling up - every trip, every time,” said Hazlette.

“Kentucky, What’s Holding You Back?” Facts

- ◆ 129,183 crashes occurred in Kentucky in 2005, resulting in 985 deaths and nearly 43,488 injuries.
- ◆ 71% of those vehicle occupants killed were not wearing a safety belt.
- ◆ In 2006, two out of every three people killed in a vehicle crash were not wearing a seatbelt.
- ◆ Research has shown that lap/shoulder belts, when properly used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent.
- ◆ In Kentucky, nearly two-thirds of traumatic brain injuries and one-third of spinal cord injuries are caused by motor vehicle crashes.
- ◆ Annually, crashes cost Kentuckians over \$3 billion – approximately \$771 for each resident. About 74% of that cost is paid by citizens not involved in the crashes in the form of higher insurance premiums, medical costs and property damage.
- ◆ On Kentucky’s highways, a fatality occurs every nine hours, and injury occurs every eleven minutes, and a crash occurs every four minutes.
- ◆ Teenage drivers represent 6% of Kentucky drivers; yet, they are involved in 16% of all fatal collisions and 21% of all injury collisions.



Plans for New Circle Road in Lexington

*Commercialized section of New Circle Road to receive a face lift
Safety improves with cable barriers*

All Around Improvement

Governor Ernie Fletcher and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announce that projects to improve the commercialized section of New Circle Road has began

The \$3.8 million project was awarded to ATS Construction and includes access management improvements, shoulder repair, turn lane extensions, and resurfacing from the intersection with Newtown Pike to the intersection with Industry Road. The project has a scheduled completion date of November 1, 2007.

“This project will provide tremendous benefits for motorists and the citizens of Fayette County by serving to reduce congestion and improve the safety of this heavily traveled route,” said Commissioner Marc D. Williams. “Coupled with current ongoing projects such as; the Cable Median Barrier installation and the Harrodsburg Road entrance ramp extension, and future improvement projects involving the interchanges at Newtown Pike and Georgetown Road, this project highlights Governor Fletcher’s commitment to improving safety and providing better access for our communities.”

“New Circle Road serves as a major thoroughfare for the City of Lexington, Fayette County and numerous surrounding counties,” said Secretary Bill Nighbert. “It is imperative that we maintain this route in a manner that will provide motorists with improved safety and visibility as it serves as a major contributor to continued economic growth and improved quality of life for citizens of the Bluegrass.”

Work on the project is scheduled to begin Wednesday night with median construction. Throughout the duration of the project motorists can expect to encounter alternating single lane closure between the hours of 7:00 pm – 6:00 am, Monday through Thursday and from 7:00 pm on Friday’s until 6:00 am on Monday mornings.

Cable Barriers

Work has begun on the installation of cable barriers on New Circle Road in Lexington. The cable barriers will stretch from Old Frankfort Pike, south to Richmond Road, which is a distance of just over eight miles. The project is scheduled to be complete later this summer. All work is scheduled on a tentative basis and is subject to change depending on weather conditions.

“These median cable barrier systems are extremely efficient in preventing cross-over crashes. This investment will greatly improve safety for the 70,000 motorists who drive along New Circle Road each day,” said Stan Cave, Governor Fletcher’s Chief of Staff. “Governor Fletcher always stresses that transportation projects be based on safety and economic impact. the assurance of funding for this project further illustrates the Governor’s unwavering commitment to improving safety on our transportation network.” □

For information about highway safety please visit <http://highwaysafety.ky.gov>

One Less Orphaned Road

Wal-Mart employees adopt section of US 68

For those traveling along US 68 in front of the new Russellville Wal-Mart, you may notice something missing. Roadside litter. Thanks to some hard-working folks at Wal-Mart, the two-mile stretch in front of their store will receive some extra attention throughout the year.

The idea began when Wal-Mart employee, Keith Hines, saw a video during a morning meeting about personal sustainability practice and how other Wal-Mart employees were working to help with the environment in their local town. This inspired Keith to do something for his community. He spoke to his supervisor, Jeff Adams, about the idea of cleaning up the litter on US 68.



Through several conversations and the coordination of Magistrate Curtis Watkins, Solid Waste Coordinator Debbie Nelson and KYTC Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Cathy Stone, Keith was able to put his plan into motion and is excited about the prospect of other Wal-Marts following suit. “Now, other Wal-Marts in our region are interested in adopting a section of highway by their store.”

More than 1,382 groups now participate in Kentucky’s program, cleaning approximately 9,100 miles annually. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet began the Adopt-A-Highway program in 1988.

How Do I Join?

Step 1 – Groups interested in becoming members of the Adopt-A-Highway Program can find specific details and district coordinator information at www.transportation.ky.gov, follow the links to Adopt-A-Highway. Safety guidelines are provided to volunteers and should be reviewed prior to each cleanup.

Step 2 – Your Adopt-A-Highway coordinator will help you get in touch with your county’s Maintenance Crew Superintendent to arrange warning sign placement on the date of your pick-up. Trash bags and safety vests can be obtained at each State Maintenance Facility, and litter removal is provided by the state highway crews. □

For more information on adopting a highway, please contact Miranda Thacker (miranda.thacker@ky.gov) at (502)564-3419 or go online at www.Transportation.ky.gov and click on education.

Kentucky Highways Show off their Colors



The usual grey pavement and occasional construction orange are not the only colors along many of Kentucky's highways this summer. Vibrant colors of yellow, red, purple, and pink are visible from many highways.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Roadside Maintenance Crews have been out gardening as part of Governor Ernie Fletcher's roadside enhancement initiative. The results of their work have been in bloom.

"We should see about 250-300 acres of blooming wildflowers," Nancy Albright, Director of the Division of Maintenance said. "That's three times as many as we had last year. Corn Poppy, Black-Eyed Susan, and Cosmos are a few of the varieties that Cabinet gardeners are trying out."

"Our wildflower plantings and other landscaping efforts are designed to make our highway scenes more appealing," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "We've been planting wildflower plots for a few years but with the Governor's emphasis on showcasing Kentucky's landscapes, this program is now a higher priority. We hope the vibrant colors symbolize Kentucky's unbridled spirit to visitors and Kentuckians alike."

Plotting a More Permanent Solution

The newest initiative is the Parkway Beautification Program, mainly along the Mountain Parkway. At these locations, typically interchanges, permanent beds have been established with flowering shrubs, trees, and plants that have yearlong color. Ornamental grasses, Rhododendrons, and other popular plants are being used. Mid-summer should be prime viewing time for these plots at exits 16, 53, 57 and 60.

All the plots were planted by Transportation Cabinet crews.



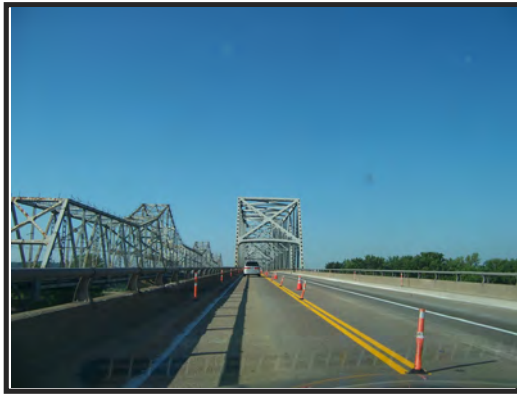
U.S. 41 Twin Bridges at Henderson

Multi Million Investment

Putting three lanes of traffic on what is normally a two lane bridge requires some innovative thinking. That's exactly what KYTC engineers and a contractor did to address a unique set of issues as part of a major maintenance and rehab project on the U.S. 41 Twin Bridges across the Ohio River between Henderson, KY, and Evansville, IN.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet started a rehab project on the U.S. 41 Twin Bridges in March. The original plan called for one lane of traffic in each direction at 45 miles per hour for 160 days in 2007 and 2008. Henderson and Evansville area businesses became concerned about the disruption of commerce between the two cities that had been experienced during previous work on the bridges in the 1980's and again in 1992. Traffic merging from two lanes into one as vehicles approached the bridge caused long travel delays.

After visiting Henderson and talking with business leaders, Governor Ernie Fletcher directed the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) to formulate a plan to maintain two lanes of traffic in each direction across the U.S. 41 Twin Bridges during the ongoing maintenance and painting of the bridges over the next two years. Governor Fletcher says the solution will allow completion of important maintenance work on the bridges while minimizing traffic disruptions.



"From the beginning, we have worked diligently to be responsive to the community's concerns about the impact traffic restrictions on the bridges would have on the area's economy," Governor Fletcher said. "Working with the contractor, I believe we have developed a workable solution."

The preferred option puts three 10 ft. lanes of traffic on the southbound bridge, two southbound and one northbound. By then maintaining another 12 ft. northbound lane on the northbound bridge during daylight hours, there would be two lanes of traffic in each direction during peak travel times. Engineers concluded that two lanes of travel in each direction at 35 miles per hour could carry more traffic across the bridges than one lane each way at 45 miles per hour. The lower speed also helped improve safety margins for workers and motorists in the work zone. The arrangement further improves safety by avoiding the need for merge zones during peak travel times. Southbound traffic is restricted to two 10 ft. lanes with trucks running in the left-hand lane. That allows room for an extra lane traveling northbound. The extra lane northbound is 10 ft. wide.

The U.S. 41 Twin Bridges carry approximately 40,000 vehicles a day across the Ohio River between Henderson, Kentucky, and Evansville, Indiana. The northbound bridge was opened to traffic in 1932. It was last rehabbed in 1983. The southbound bridge was opened to traffic in 1965. It was last painted in 1990. □



\$500 Million Estimate Cost for final APD Road in Kentucky: US 460 Through Pike County

Appalachian regional commission started Appalachian Project Development (APD) highway system in 1960s

Construction is well under way on new US 460, a four-lane highway which will replace the two-lane road that connects Pike County to southwestern Virginia and its planned Coalfields Expressway. Access to Elkhorn City and Breaks Interstate Park will be enhanced and driving time for residents and visitors reduced significantly. Out of 14 construction sections, seven are under contract. Three additional sections should go to contract before the end of 2007, which means the first usable section, from US 23 to Marrowbone/KY 195, should be ready for traffic by 2011. The entire highway is expected to be open for traffic in 7-9 years. Pictured below is what will eventually be the Greasy Creek interchange. This view starts at Greasy Creek and goes toward Little Creek. Below right workers ready a bridge pier. The highway leaves US 23 at Little Creek and goes to the Virginia state line. Total estimated cost of the 17-mile project is \$500 million. □



\$57.5 Million to I-64 Improvements in Shelby County

Project will widen five miles of interstate

Plans for a major renovation project along part of Interstate 64 in Shelby County are now in the fast lane. Governor Ernie Fletcher's chief of staff, Stan Cave, joined local and state leaders in groundbreaking ceremonies for a \$57.5 million investment along I-64. The interstate will be rebuilt and widened to three lanes for about five miles between Hooper Station Road (KY 1790) near the weigh station and Waddy Road (KY 395). "Governor Fletcher's administration is working now to meet the transportation needs of tomorrow," said Cave. "Kentucky's interstate system is the life line for economic growth. This infrastructure improvement will help businesses meet their on-time delivery demands. Furthermore, this investment will pave the way for a safer commute for local residents and a safer drive for all motorists in this area."



As part of this construction project, three sets of aging bridges on Interstate 64 will be replaced. In addition, the overpasses at KY 714 and KY 395 will be replaced.

"This is a huge announcement for Shelby County," said Sen. Gary Tapp (R-Waddy). "I am pleased that Governor Fletcher and the Transportation Cabinet have made this important project a priority."

"I-64 is a vital link in the commonwealth," added Rep. Brad Montell (R-Shelbyville). "These improvements will benefit the business community, local residents and tourists by helping to relieve traffic congestion and improving safety."

During most of the construction, the work zone will include two lanes of traffic that will be maintained

in each direction. When lane closures are necessary, they will occur between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"Under the Governor's leadership we have greatly improved our highway network across the state and this project is one of several improvements planned for I-64," said Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert. "Instead of merely resurfacing the roadway, we decided that now is the time to make significant upgrades to accommodate for future growth."

Contractors for the project are HG Mays Corp., Louisville Paving Co. and Mago Construction. The anticipated completion date is September 2008. □



Transportation Cabinet Changes Speed Limit Signs

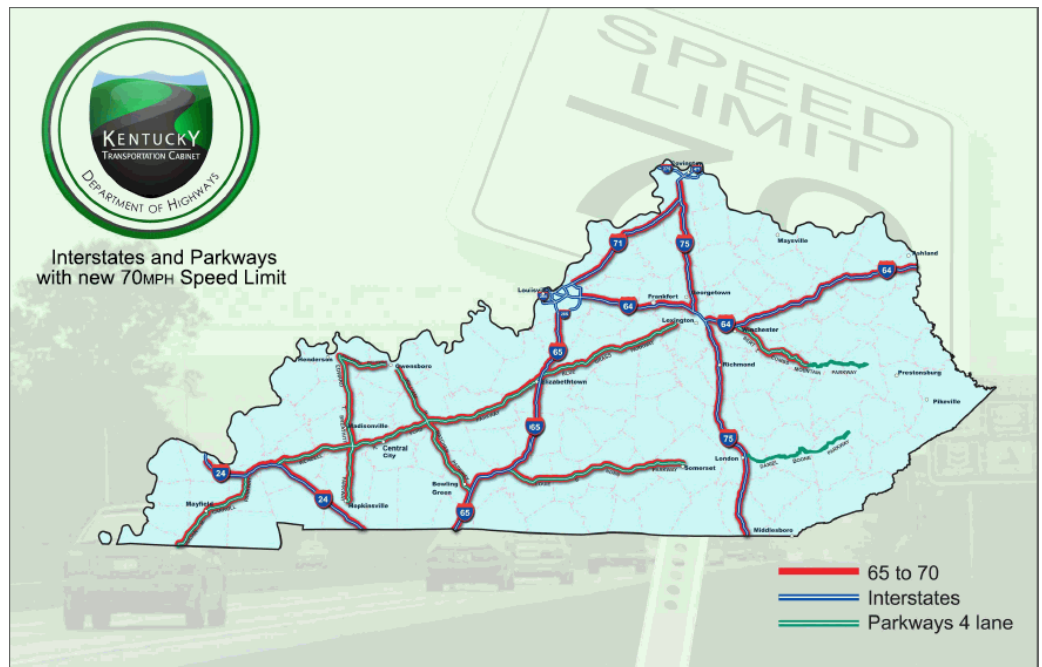
Signs change statewide in one day to 70MPH

On Tuesday, July 10th speed limits increased on a majority of Kentucky's interstates and parkways. Posted speed limits increased from 65 to 70 in a one day effort by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet under the direction of Secretary Bill Nighbert. Governor Ernie Fletcher had proposed this change in his 2006 State of the Commonwealth Address where he noted studies showing that increases in speed limit did not subsequently increase injuries on highways.

In March, Governor Ernie Fletcher signed Senate Bill 83 which allows for a speed limit increase on rural interstates and parkways throughout the Commonwealth. The legislation, which requires that an engineering safety study first be completed, provides the Secretary of Transportation with the authority to increase speed limits on select sections of interstates and parkways that are deemed warranted and safe.

Our traffic and maintenance crews will be working diligently to effect these changes in a safe, consistent, and timely manner. The Cabinet anticipates completing this change within one day for interstates and parkways. Emphasis is being placed on quickly changing out the signs in an effort to minimize confusion as much as possible. At the direction of Secretary Nighbert, changes to existing speed limit signs, were postponed until after the heavily traveled July 4th holiday.

"After thoroughly reviewing the engineering safety studies, we have made the decision to increase the speed limit to 70 MPH on these specified rural interstates and parkways," stated Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert. "We believe this bill will facilitate the mobility of people and products, which is another plus for Kentucky's economy." □



Engineering Scholarships for Kentucky Students

While many college bound seniors are still undecided about their major, this is not the case for students in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Civil Engineering Scholarship Program. The 24 students from across the state are a part of this year's class. At any one time the Transportation Cabinet is assisting 80 students through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Civil Engineering Scholarship Program.

Since 1948, the Transportation Cabinet has given over 1,500 scholarships, representing over \$12 million in educational support. This scholarship is now worth \$4,400 per semester for freshmen and sophomore; and \$4,800 per semester for junior and seniors. The scholarship is available for Kentucky students to attend state schools.



The Transportation Cabinet employs over 400 engineers, almost all of whom are civil engineers. This makes KYTC the largest state employer of engineers. The Cabinet gives the scholarship students an opportunity to work for the state in summer internships and after graduation. Students must repay the state for the scholarship by working one year for every year they received money. Not only do these students know what they want to study, they even know where they want to work for four years after college and hopefully more.

"The Scholarship program is a unique opportunity for engaging students in a partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and facilitating future employment," said University of Kentucky Professor and Civil Engineering Advisor, Nikiforos Stamatiadis. "This program is the largest one in the country where scholarships are provided for civil engineering students that also offers a future employment. The summer work program offered through the scholarship also allows students to form an understanding of the work environment and identify areas for potential specialization."

"This unique program affords the Transportation Cabinet the opportunity to attract and retain the best and brightest students in Kentucky to become our future transportation engineers," said State Highway Engineer, Marcie Mathews. "Our scholarship program ensures we will have new engineers entering the work force each year, where we will statistically retain nearly 50% of those engineers after they work the required number of years obligation. As our senior engineers retire, we have a continual stream of experienced engineers available to take on those roles."

Students are chosen based on the following criteria: performance in high school and standardized tests, aptitude in math and science, and interest in engineering as a career. For more information on how to apply go on our website to: <http://transportation.ky.gov/scholarship/> □

Watch Out! Deer on Roadways

Looking for Water

Lack of rainfall affects more than our gardens. The deer and foxes, squirrels and rabbits that make their home in the hills of Eastern Kentucky are on the move to find water. Their usual sources, high mountain streams, are dry.

Keith Hill, who works at Johnson County Maintenance for Highway District 12 of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said that on June 18 and 19 state road workers in Johnson County picked up eight dead deer on state roadways. "We are having deer (on the highways) hit numbers that are more typical with November," Hill said. "If the drought continues, this will bring even more wildlife to the streams near our highways."

The majority of the deer found so far have wandered onto four-lane roads, but Hill said the phenomenon seems to be increasing on all the main highways. "Motorists should be alert and watch for animals, not just deer, especially at dawn and twilight."

Animals tend to move when the sun is coming up and going down. Those are also times when visibility can be affected by fog (in the morning) or glare (in the evening). "We want to caution people so that they can avoid accidents," Hill said. "People on motorcycles want to be really careful. A full grown doe can total a car. I'd hate to think what it could do to a motorcycle." □



Get Healthy Kentucky Winners

The Transportation Cabinet recently participated in the Governor's Get Healthy Kentucky challenge. KYTC employees state logged their healthy activities and renewed their emphasis on healthy lifestyle choices. Divisions, offices, departments and entire districts engaged in creative *Get Healthy Kentucky* activities. KYTC employees gained points for their *Get Healthy Kentucky* endeavors and competed for some great prizes including iPods, Unbridled Spirit gift cards and an assortment of exercise and healthy food preparation items. Congratulations to District 8 for being the number one district in overall points! Congratulations to the following individual winners from central office and our highway districts!

Amy Hurley	Ann Whalen
Anja Bibb	Ashley Jenkins
Ann Mattingly	Beth Mills
Ann Whalen	Bob Ramsey
Ashley Jenkins	Charlene Sowder

Chris Wisecup
Christy Franklin
Craig Farmer
Dan White
David Davis
David Devers
David Harris
Debbie Childers
Debbie Pyles
Dee Stamper
Della Dunn
Denis Gardner
Denise Woods
Denver Floyd
Frances Muir
Gordon Goodrich
Harold Cobb
Jack Hutchinson
Jamie Lynn
Jeanie Strode

Jessica Keithline
Jim Hudson
John Rudd
Joyce Lindberg
Karen Robinson
Kevin Young
Kyle Witten
Latoria Brooks
Lisa Coats
Lonnie Hamblin
Marsha Moore
Matt Bullock
Michelle Bennett
Mike Bezold
Mike King
Nansa Catchings
Nikki Lingala
Paula Cissell
Phil Logsdon
Phil Mauney

Regina Darnell
Renee Slaughter
Rick Long
Ricky Woods
Ronnie O'Nan
Roy Sawyers
Sandra Huddleston
Sandy Layne
Scott Pieratt
Shirley Clark
Steve James
Steve Vick
Tammy Yount
Tanya Terry
Tarnell Patton
Terry Lynn Tackett
Todd Riley
Vivian Wisecup
Wade Clements
Wayne Mattingly

Northern Kentucky University Receives \$2.2 Million

Access road paves the way to NKU's new arena

Governor Ernie Fletcher's chief of staff, Stan Cave, joined leaders from Northern Kentucky University, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and leaders of the community and region in breaking ground for a \$2.2 million campus access road. The upgrade will pave the way to NKU's new, \$60 million Bank of Kentucky Center, currently under construction.

"I am proud to represent Governor Fletcher as we break ground on this project. It will have a positive impact on NKU and the region," Cave said. "This administration is committed to identifying investments that will enhance the quality of life in local communities for generations to come."

The Transportation Cabinet gave NKU the design for the roadway and \$2,213,415 for its construction. Eaton Asphalt Co., of Wilder, was awarded the project and has begun construction. The improvements will begin at the intersection of Nunn Drive and University Drive and proceed toward the parking garage.

"This is a big day not just for NKU but for our entire region," NKU President James Votruba said. "As our campus continues to grow, this project will allow us to accommodate our increasing student population. And when the Bank of Kentucky Center opens, we'll be able to welcome visitors from around the Commonwealth with ease and convenience."

A "roundabout" will be built at the intersection of Nunn and University drives. There will be two lanes, north and south, with a grass median, curb, gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes.

"Governor Fletcher is to be commended for working with our northern Kentucky legislators to ensure that our infrastructure needs keep pace with our dynamic growth," stated Senate President Pro Tem Katie Stine (R-Southgate). "This new road will help to ease the commute for thousands of residents while safely bringing visitors to our new events center."

"We are fortunate to have a Governor who recognizes the needs of our community and region," said Rep. Joe Fischer (R-Fort Thomas). "This new access road is vital not only for the Bank of Kentucky Center but will also help to accommodate future growth in central Campbell County."

Nunn Drive and a portion of University Drive will be closed to traffic this summer in order to facilitate construction activities. The road closings will continue until mid-August. Both roads should be reopened before the start of the fall semester. □



Bypass Provides New Travel and Economic Link to Region

The official groundbreaking for the Columbia Bypass was held after years of waiting. The groundbreaking was led by Governor Fletcher making good on his promise. The event was held new Adair County Elementary School.

Governor Fletcher joined local and state officials in Adair County to make a very important change in the city of Columbia that will result in safer travels for Adair County residents and those who travel throughout this area of Kentucky an use this route.

The Columbia Bypass along with the KY 61 south project is a vital part of the north-south corridor that will eventually extend from the Tennessee line and on to I-40 and the Bluegrass Parkway.

The last part of the KY 61 south project is to be awarded in the Fall of 2007 and at that time Adair county will have acquired over \$100 million in highway projects under Governor Fletcher's administration.

Columbia's new bypass is one of the first projects in the planned Heartland Parkway which will connect the Louie B. Nunn Parkway in Adair County to the Bluegrass Parkway in Washington County.

"This is a vital investment for the future of Columbia, Adair Community and the entire region," said Governor Fletcher. "The Columbia Bypass project will forever change the face of this city."

We were honored to have the 2006 state champion marching band in Kentucky, Adair County High School, perform "My Old Kentucky Home" as well as the National Anthem for the ceremony.

Gaddie Shamrock Construction Company has been awarded the project in the amount of \$25,817,623. Crews have started work on the project.

In three years we will have traffic on the Bypass going all the way to Tennessee. □



For more information on highway projects <http://www.transportation.ky.gov/>
and click on Highway Project Information

KYTC Quarterly Management Meeting

Secretary Bill Nighbert and other Cabinet leaders recently took part in the first quarterly management meeting. Three managers, Commissioner of Vehicle Regulation Roy Mundy, Director of Program Management Ron Rigney and District 8 Deputy Executive Director Dale Weddle were recognized with awards for their managerial excellence. Secretary Nighbert and Deputy Secretary Crystal Ducker presented the awards. □



Kentucky continues Restoration of Covered Bridges

Johnson Creek Covered Bridge in Robertson County began a \$600,000 restoration project. The 110-foot bridge was constructed by Jacob Bower around 1870. This bridge was located on KY 1029. In 1966 it was bypassed and closed. The bridge is now being restored by Arnold Graton Associated, Inc of holderness, New Hampshire. Preserving historical structures is a priority for the Transportation Cabinet. They are important to our culture, educational, economic, aesthetic and historic resources. □



Building Stronger Communities

Creating places for individuals to come together

A ceremonial check of \$500,000 was presented for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to the Boone County Fiscal Court for the construction of a senior center to be attached to the R.C. Durr YMCA in Burlington.

“As our population gets older, it’s critical to have a place and opportunity for our seniors to stay active and lead healthy lifestyles,” said Governor Fletcher. “A new senior center will have a major impact on the senior community in Boone County for years to come.”

The \$675,000 senior center will have 3,000 square feet of space as well as a 1,000 square foot deck for outdoor activities. The center will be connected to the YMCA, but will have its own entrance, handicap accessible parking, storage, kitchen and bathroom facilities. Currently seniors only have use of a small, windowless area in the basement of the YMCA.

The new center will be able to accommodate approximately 100 people per day and several hundred per week. Current capacity is about 35 people per day. Construction is expected to start as early as November.

Kentucky’s U. S. Congressional leaders’ continued support of the CDBG program has made the funding available nationally as well as within the commonwealth. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) makes these funds available through the Governor’s Office for Local Development (GOLD). Applications are accepted on a continual basis.

While in Northern Kentucky today Governor Fletcher presented more than \$19 million for community projects, ranging from sidewalk improvements to new highway construction.

“These projects represent my administration’s strong commitment to improve the quality of life for every Kentuckian,” said Governor Fletcher. “Investing in sidewalks, improved highways and cleaner air here in Northern Kentucky helps lay the foundation for a brighter future for generations to come.”

As part of today’s funding announcement, the Governor presented a \$12,592,778 to Boone County for the Industrial Road project, which has been awarded to construction. The project will widen Industrial Road to five lanes from US 42 to U.S. 25 (Dixie Highway), improving mobility, safety, and access to the Northern Kentucky Industrial Park. □



For more information about the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet visit our new website at: <http://transportation.ky.gov>

Above and Beyond Awards

The above and beyond awards are given out quarterly to recognize outstanding employees of the Cabinet. These award recipients are not inclusive of all those performing above expectations, but are a representation of what the Cabinet boasts to call its own. Our congratulations go to all those listed here as well as others nominated for this award.

Combined these five employees below represent many years of outstanding service, and dedication to the Cabinet. The award given can hardly repay them for all that they have done, it is simply a small way of offering our appreciation.

On April 18th this year Transportation Cabinet's Deputy Secretary, Crystal Ducker presented *Above and Beyond Awards* to five Cabinet employees.

Bethany Holloway: Administrative Specialist III, Division of Motor Carriers, Commercial Motor Vehicle Credential Section; Bethany prides herself in exceeding her job expectations by assisting all of her customers in a courteous and efficient manner; she has received numerous thank you letters and managers have received feedback on several occasions from customers wanting to express their gratitude for the wonderful service she provides. She is also a source for new ideas to improve services provided by the Division of Motor Carriers.



Anthony Russell: Branch Manager, Division of Employee Support, Safety and Health Administration Branch. Under his leadership, the Cabinet achieved the lowest documented overall injury and illness recordable incident rate in KYTC history. Cabinet expenditures for work related medical claims and lost time injury cases declined by \$378,522 from the previous year. Mr. Russell is a valuable resource in providing advice and consultation to district and division offices on the subject of safety.



Joe Carter: Transportation Technologist III ; 2 year employee with the Department of Aviation; has 20 years of experience in Aviation Design. He and a staff of 2 manage all ongoing projects under design or construction in the 61 airports under their purview. Without Mr. Carter's dedication to his job it would be impossible to keep with the massive workload. Without Mr. Carter's assistance, Aviation's engineering goals and mission would not be accomplished. All of the Cabinet's customers and partners are consistently impressed with the depth of Mr. Carter's knowledge and professionalism. He not only spreads goodwill through out the Commonwealth, but also sets a shining example of what a good, hard-working state employee should be.



Clayton Gilliam: Transportation Engineer Technician III, District 1, Paducah; Mr. Gilliam is currently responsible for the inspection of the 535 bridges under the purview of District 1. Mr. Gilliam makes it a priority to inspect all 535 bridges each year, even though only 155 of these structures are required to be inspected annually. What is also amazing is that he inspects each respective bridge within a two week time frame from the previous year. His annual inspections of every structure allows him to make repair, posting, closure and replacement recommendations in advance of a sudden structural breakdown of these facilities.



Mary Wade: Quality Branch Manager, Division of Program Performance; Mary stepped up after an employee transferred out of another branch to handle the redevelopment of the Project Engineer training for the Cabinet. She did this in addition to her duties in the Quality Branch of the division. Through coordination efforts with 10 divisions and 12 districts, the division was able to offer the first 8-day session of the Project Development Academy in January 2007. The success of the program was a team effort, however Mary stepped up to assure its success.



Konnections In Transportation

A unique solution can be logically reached without guessing for each of the sudoku puzzles. Fill the blank spaces with digits from 1 to 9. Each row must contain one of every digit. Each row and each 3x3 square must also contain one of each digit. □

							5	
							7	
5					4	1		
6		4	1	8	7			
		9		5	3			2
3	5	8	9	4			1	6
1				2		5		
4		3			1			9
	9	5	7		8		4	

Employee Luncheon for District 3

A luncheon was held at the National Guard Armory for the employees of District 3 as an extra ‘thank you’ for the service they provide. “We thought this would be a great way to express our thanks for all the hard work they do,” said Shailen Bhatt, Deputy Executive Director.

During the luncheon, Commissioner of Highways Marc Williams presented service awards to the following people:

- ◆ Ronald Emerson – 16 year service award and pin
- ◆ Daniel Bryant – 16 year service award and pin
- ◆ Keith Mueller – 20 year service award
- ◆ Patrick Blevins – 20 year service award
- ◆ Jerry Rector – 20 year service award
- ◆ Morris Moran – 25 year service award



Pictured left to right: Scott Pedigo, Kent Gilley, Shailen Bhatt, Commissioner Williams and Steve James

Retirees

March

Rodford Smith ~ Planning
Barbara Rucker ~ OPM
Larry Bertrand ~ D-5
Russell Lancaster ~ D-8
Betty McDaniel ~ D-3
Earl Hull ~ Fac Mgt
Maria Merrill ~ D-6
Jerry Egan ~ D-4
Tommy Kerns ~ D-7
Melvin Tatum ~ D-3
Kenneth Wilburn ~ D-9
Janice Osbury ~ D-5

April

Jim McCarthy ~ D-6
Lonnie Taylor ~ D-6
Bennie Chandler ~ D-1
David Darnell ~ MOL
James Baker ~ D-3

May

Leroy Bryant ~ D-4
Thomas Ford ~ D-4
William Martin ~ D-4
James Stidham ~ D-3
James Dunavent ~ D-6

James Jordan ~ Budget
Jesse Zimmerman ~ Budget
John Bean ~ Legal
Earl Hull ~ Fac Mgt
Paul Puckett ~ D-4
Stephen Hartlage ~ D-5
William Merrill ~ D-6
Mozelle Tinsley ~ MC
Lisa Calvert ~ Drivers Lic
Jere Jones ~ D-2
Nancy Taylor ~ D-2
Roy Wynn ~ D-10
Paul Mullins ~ D-10
Mark Clements ~ Aviation
David Furnish ~ D-6
Bobby Perkins ~ D-6
James Harkine ~ Planning
Jack Conway ~ Structural Design
Bonnie Taylor ~ Personnel
Phyllis Biggerstaff ~ D-7
Bruce Siria ~ Planning
Darrell Dudgeon ~ Maintenance
Kenneth Watson ~ Maintenance
Rita Wilson ~ Drivers Lic
Emery Goodpaster ~ D-9
Charlotte Vance ~ D-2
Sarah Garrard ~ D-2
Anna Darr ~ D-2

Arnell Weston-Muir ~ D-4
Sandra Langford ~ D-8
Paul Blevins, Jr ~ D-8
William Shafer ~ D-8
Bille McDonald ~ D-8
Aubrey Kilpatrick, Jr ~ D-8
Linda Antle ~ D-8
Jeffrey Morris ~ D-8
Teresa Riddle ~ Legal
Jerry Bill ~ D-11
Charles Robinson ~ D-5
William Satterfield ~ D-11
Lera Cox ~ D-3
Robert Proctor ~ D-5
Rita Burdine ~ Legal
Stephen Hayes ~ D-6
Denver Crouch ~ D-9
Maria Mitchell ~ D-3
Gregory Wooten ~ D-4
David Woford ~ D-4
Lynn Gibson ~ D-4
John Wallace IV ~ D-4
Joseph Ferry ~ D-4
Michael Miller ~ D-5
Ronald Kircher ~ D-5
Daniel Farrell ~ D-6
Maria Merrill ~ D-6
Sanford Wills ~ D-6

Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign

The Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign is a partnership of Kentucky state employees and six accredited statewide charities, who together work to make a significant difference in the lives of our families, friends and neighbors throughout the Commonwealth.

KECC partner charities represent more than a thousand charitable programs which help to meet health and human services needs in Kentucky.

Since 1993, the KECC has provided the opportunity for state employees to contribute to eligible charitable organizations through the state's payroll deduction process. It is a campaign created by state employees and run by state employees. The campaign raised more than \$1.33 million in 2006 to help build a better Kentucky.

Major General Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General for Kentucky, is Kentucky's KECC Chair this year. In his words, "We chose this year's slogan, 'United We Stand - Hand in Hand,' for the slogan for our great state of Kentucky. As employees of our Commonwealth, we are in a unique position not only to make a direct and positive impact in helping our local communities but to set a dynamic example for our fellow citizens!"

As you make your gift and encourage others to do so, remember that even a modest payroll deduction can help someone in need:

- ♦\$25 will provide life skills and literacy training for six people ...
- ♦\$15 will mean 26 days of shelter, food and security for victims of domestic violence ...
- ♦\$4 per paycheck provides two weeks of before and after school care for a child ...
- ♦And even \$2 means two weeks of activities and companionship for four elderly persons ...



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